

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 PM-07 AF-10 EUR-25 USIE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 MMS-03

ACDA-19 OMB-01 SAJ-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /143 W

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 222

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 3498

SINGAPORE FOR AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MARR IN US

SUBJECT: DEPUTY SECRETARY CLEMENTS' TESTIMONY

ON DIEGO GARCIA

1. UK HICOM HERE TOLD US THIS MORNING THEY HAD JUST RECEIVED CABLE FROM LONDON STATING THAT DEPUTY SECY OF DEFENSE CLEMENTS IN HIS TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE MARCH 12 STATED IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS THT DOD PLANNED TO ASK FOR ADDITIONAL \$65-75 MILLION FOR EXPANSION OF DIEGO GARCIA, OVER AND ABOVE \$29 MILLION CURRENTLY BEING REQUESTED.

2. BRITISH CABLE ALSO REFERRED TO EXCHANGE ON B-52S. TICKERS HERE ARE REPORTING THAT DEPUTY SECRETARY CLEMENTS AND ADMIRAL MOORER AT FIRST AGREED WITH SENATOR SYMINGTON THAT WORK TO BE DONE ON THE AIRSTRIP WOULD FACILITATE ACCOMMODATING B-52S, TANKER PLANES, AND LARGE CARGO AIRCRAFT. THEY LATER RETRACTED THEIR EARLIER POSITION BUT ADMIRAL MOORER IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT CONSIDERATION HAD BEEN GIVEN TO EXPANDING
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DIEGO GARCIA TO ACCOMMODATE B-52S AND THAT HE WOULD

SUPPORT SUCH A QME ON STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS.

3. IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT THESE TWO NEWS STORIES,
PARTICULARLY THAT REGARDING THE B-52S, WILL GENERATE
ANOTHER ANTI-US DISCUSSION IN THE INDIAN PARLIAMENT.
WHILE WE SUPPORT THE BEST POSSIBLE JUSTIFICATION FOR
DIEGO GARCIA BEFORE THE CONGRESS, WE HOPE WE CAN AVOID
NEEDLESSLY STIRRING UP FURTHER LITTORAL OPPOSITION.
WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT LETTING US HAVE
THE FACTS REGARDING ADDITIONAL FUNDING AND THE B-52
EXCHANGE AND PROVIDE US WITH GUIDANCE ON WHAT TO SAY.
WE ARE LIKELY TO GET ANOTHER QUERY FROM MEA TOMORROW
MORNING.
SCHNEIDER

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